



History of Prizes



Do Prizes Work? Historic Examples...

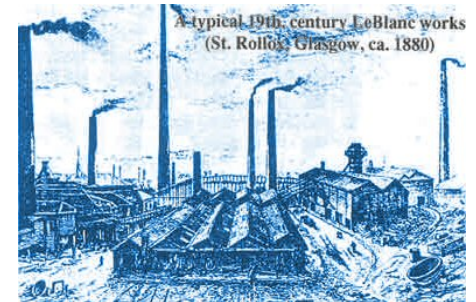
- **18th CENTURY: THE LONGITUDE PRIZE**

- 1714 - British Government Offered £20K Prize by Act of Parliament, Overseen by Board of Longitude (Comprised of Royal Observatory Dignitaries, Including Newton and Halley).
- 1735 to 1761 – Winning Entry Developed by Unknown Inventor Using “Wrong” Solution Method.
- 1773 - King George III Awarded Prize to Harrison, Despite Board of Longitude Protests.



- **19th CENTURY: FRENCH PRIZES**

- 1783 - £2,400 prize offered by French *Académie des Sciences* (raised to £12,000 in 1789) to promote creation of synthetic alkali industry (used in production of glass, paper, and soap). In 1855, Napoleon III bestowed the prize to the heirs of Nicolas LeBlanc for work he patented in 1791.
- 1795 – 12,000FF prize offered to develop a reliable method of food preservation for the French army. In 1810, Napoleon awarded the prize to Nicolas Appert for his process developed in 1804.





Do Prizes Work? Historic Examples...

- **20th CENTURY: AEROSPACE PRIZES (OTHERS NOT LISTED)**

- 1901 to 1913 - Various Airship/plane Prizes and Races, primarily in Europe, won by likes of Santos-Dumont, Farman, Wright, Blériot, Grahame-White, Curtis, Renaux, Védérines, Sopwith, Sikorsky, Alcock & Brown, etc.
- 1919 - \$25K Orteig Prize for first non-stop flight between Paris and NY. The prize was won in 1927 by Charles Lindbergh.
- 1959 - Kremer Prizes for human-powered flight. £50K and £100K won by MacCready in 1977 and 1979 for figure-eight and channel crossing flights. More not yet claimed.
- 1996 to 2004 - \$10M ANSARI X PRIZE won by Scaled Composites.



Santos-Dumont/14-bis: 1,500FF for Europe's first flight over 100m.



Charles Lindbergh/Spirit of St. Louis: \$25,000 for first non-stop flight between Paris and New York.



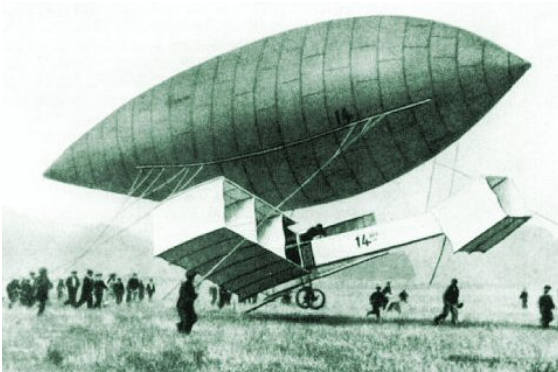
Burt Rutan/SpaceShipOne: Winner of the \$10M, suborbital space flight X PRIZE.



Do Prizes Work? M

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- 1901 to 1913 - Various Airship/prize won by likes of Santos-Dumont, F. Curtiss, Renaux, Védérines, Sopwith
- 1919 - \$25K Orteig Prize for first prize was won in 1927 by Charles
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Charles Lindberg/S
first non-stop flight b

Did You Know...

The Early European Aviation Prizes Led To The Creation of NASA?

“The progress of European aviation due to prizes and competitions became troubling to US observers. Dr. Albert F. Zahm, head of the revived Smithsonian aeronautical laboratory originally founded by Samuel Pierpoint Langley, was dispatched to Europe along with Dr. Jerome C. Hunsaker of MIT to study the situation there. Zahm’s report, issued in 1914 emphasized the disparity between European progress and American inertia. The report led to the creation of the Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (later known as the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics or NACA), the predecessor of NASA.”

Source: Bilstein, Orders of Magnitude A History of the NACA and NASA, 1915-1990, NASA SP-4406, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Washington, DC, 1989.”



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